

HOME OF THE WARRIORS

Loyola
OF MONTREAL

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Bad news for the rest of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Basketball League ... the Loyola Warriors are back with even a better club than last year's.

"If anything we've got more balance this year," explained Loyola cager coach Doug Daigneault. "Everyone can play good ball. There is very little difference in ability between the top nine or ten men on the squad."

"Three men and possibly four are missing from the lineup that carried the Warriors to an unbeaten 16-0 league mark, and 24-9 overall, the OSL cage loop title, the Coupe de Quebec in basketball and a third place finish in the national playoffs last spring. Guard Peter Phipps lured to Acadia with a scholarship, backup pivot Ken Hoffman suffered a serious head injury in the off season and Joe Zagancsyk has decided not to turn out for this year's team. A fourth member of the team, Jerry Walsh, switched majors and may be lost through an eligibility ruling.

"We've got a fine group of new players out with the team," said Daigneault, "and the heart of our team has returned. We're going to carry 14 men even though we're allowed to dress only 12 for each league game."

Heading the list of returnees are co-captains Earl Lewis and guard Tom Profenno. Also back to give the Warriors strong rebounding and in close scoring punch are Jack Contos and John "the Bull" McMuliffe. They'll be joined by veterans Jim Ivy, Dave Burke and Harvey Kessler.

The most promising new face in the Warrior cage line-up is Jim Fahey. Fahey, 6'1" utility player, has moved up from the junior varsity ranks and in coach Daigneault's estimation he is "right now one of the finest players we've got in our system". He'll be used either in the back court, on the front lines as the situation demands. Another fine addition to the Warriors is 6'3" Greg Gill. Gill, a freshman has cracked the lineup and Daigneault is expecting big things from the fine players.

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With Hoffman out of the lineup Daigneault will be turning to another newcomer to provide depth up the middle for his big men. That player is Montrealer Jay Friel. Friel, a 6'3" former JV, needs a bit more game seasoning but Daigneault feels that he can count on the boy to produce when asked. The other new face which will see action this weekend will be muscular 6'1" Brian O'Keeffe, a rookie on the team in his second year at Loyola. Harvey Liverman, formerly of Northmont High School is another of the 14 that Daigneault will keep on the team roster. Liverman injured a disc last year and saw only limited action with both the varsity and JV teams and he'll make his presence felt as he plays himself into better shape. Daigneault is looking for big 6'5" Jim McCarthy to give the club added strength in the second half. McCarthy is slowed by a knee injury and will need an operation before he can realize his full potential on the courts.

The Warriors will face probably one of the toughest, roughest opening schedules of their existence when they open at home against the big, very powerful Western powerhouse, the University of Manitoba Bisons. The Warriors face the Bisons Friday night at 8:15 p.m. at the Loyola sports complex. The college game will be preceded by a game between the CFOX bounceballers and a team made up of the Montreal Expos, both players and team officials.

"We're going to find out how good we are very quickly", said the Warrior's boss. "This is the best and most competitive schedule yet. Manitoba will be a good test and then the next weekend we're off to Acadia's Tip-off Tournament."

Loyola's on/e guard, single post and 1-3-1 offence will have its hands full of the big western club that are contenders of the Western title this year. Led by western scoring leader Terry Bell, the Bisons will have a back court of 6'3" and 6'4" while their front wall goes 6'4", 6'5" and 6'6". The Bisons have been strengthened by the addition of three American college players, who have had four years of seasoning in college ranks.

"We'll have to play very good basketball to win", predicted Daigneault. "We're a fast, very flexible club and we can make changes when we have to but I know we will have our hands full against Manitoba."